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Letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the declaration made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 2 January 2015, upon expiry of the ultimatum given to elements of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (see annex).

My Government would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ignace **Gata Mavita**
Permanent Representative
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 6 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government declaration concerning the process of voluntary disarmament of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda

On 18 April 2014, the leaders of the Rwandan negative force "Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda" (FDLR) had sent a letter to a number of leading world figures informing them of their commitment to begin, on 30 May 2014, and before witnesses, the voluntary disarmament of their combatants, present for several years in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As instructed by their respective Heads of State, and anxious to preserve human life, the ministers for foreign affairs and ministers of defence of the States members of both the Southern African Development Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa had decided, at a joint meeting held on 2 July 2014 in Luanda, to grant FDLR a maximum of six months, that is, until 2 January 2015, to meet this commitment, failing which the military option would be pursued against those FDLR combatants who, as of that deadline, had not voluntarily laid down their weapons.

Today, Friday 2 January 2015, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Southern African Development Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the African Union and the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism comprising military experts of all the States members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, witnesses of the voluntary disarmament process announced by FDLR, note that the surrender of the FDLR combatants has only taken place in three stages, as follows:

- 30 May 2014: 104 combatants in Kateku, North Kivu province, handed over 104 weapons, including crew-served weapons;
- 9 June 2014: 83 combatants in Kigogo, South Kivu province, handed over 83 weapons, of which 8 were crew-served weapons; and
- 28 December 2014: 84 combatants in Buleusa, North Kivu, and 67 in Burhinyi, South Kivu, handed over 37 and 30 weapons respectively, of which 11 in total were crew-served weapons.

In other words, a total of 337 combatants handed over 254 weapons. This represents only 26 per cent of the total number of FDLR combatants present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, estimated at 1,300 in October 2012 by the Military Assessment Team, the entity established for that purpose at a summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and comprising military experts of all States members of that regional organization.

It is therefore clear that, despite all the urgings and various encouragements, by both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the international community, the FDLR voluntary disarmament process, launched seven months ago, has not yielded the expected results by the established deadline of 2 January 2015.

Consequently, anxious to protect the security of the people and their property, and in compliance with the commitments undertaken, particularly that of eradicating all negative forces and all armed groups from its territory, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo hereby informs the nation and the international community that, as of today, 2 January 2015, the military option has become inevitable against those FDLR combatants who have not yet voluntarily laid down their weapons, and all necessary operational measures have been and will be taken to that effect.

Done at Kinshasa, on 2 January 2015
On behalf of the Prime Minister, Head of Government
Willy **Makiashi**
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Employment,
Labour and Social Welfare